

Minimum 14°C  
Maximum 25°C  
Sunset 06:20pm  
Sunrise 05:56am  
(Tomorrow)

## LAHORE

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Sunday, March 29, 2020



FAJAR	04:35 AM
ZOHAR	12:08 PM
ASR	04:35 PM
MAGRIB	06:20 PM
ISHA	07:42 PM

## Quick Read

## CM directs LDA to take steps for providing relief to people

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has directed the LDA high ups for taking adequate measures for providing relief to the people in the current situation besides looking into the possibility for further facilitating the public with regard to their day-to-day affairs pertaining to Lahore Development Authority.

He passed on these directions while talking to the Vice Chairman of Lahore Development Authority SM Imran, who called on him on Saturday.

The Chief Minister observed that convenience of the general public must be accorded top priority in the present scenario and efforts should be made for simplifying official procedures.

He asked for taking all possible initiatives to counter the effects of disruption in execution of ongoing development projects due to the prevailing circumstances.

He asked for utilising all available resources for completion of these projects without further delay.

## LGH's doctors to be available on skype

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Principal Post Graduate Medical Institute Prof Dr Al-Fareed Zafar said that doctors of General Hospital will be available on skype helpline also on Sunday for the medical advice and treatment to the patients.

He said that people will get information 24/7 on telephone number 0429926808-09 regarding coronavirus.

He said that we could safe ourself by implementing preventive measures strictly so that we have to play our individual role in this regard.

## 'Farmers should sow approved BT cotton varieties'

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** The Punjab Agriculture Department has advised farmers to sow approved BT cotton seeds to get good crop yield.

A spokesman for the department said here Saturday that approved BT cotton varieties include Ali Akbar 703, IUB-13, BS-15, FH-142, Nayab 878, NNH-886, FH-114, AGC-999, FH-152 and others. Farmers could get certified seeds from the Punjab Seed Corporation and registered private departments, he added.

He said that cotton growers would be provided guidance through YouTube, Facebook and WhatsApp groups. Farmers could also contact on 0800-17000 for technical assistance.



LAHORE: A view of an empty Hall Road Regal Chowk at the fifth-day lockdown.—Online

# Supply of ration to families of corona patients to be continued: CM

—Says special package will be given to govt employees

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar presided over meeting in an open lawn of the Chief Minister's Office, instead of a closed room to prevent from Coronavirus virus.

The meeting reviewed the recommendations and suggestions of Punjab Financial Package for the daily wagers and labours being affected from the lockdown. Usman Buzdar directed to constitute a committee consisting of high ranked officers, which will submit its report immediately after devising the procedure of package for daily wage and labour. The meeting decided that relief will be provided to the daily wagers and labour class through Easy Paisa.

The meeting principally decided that for the relief package at district level committees will be formed under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner and representation to the public repre-

sentatives and people from various schools of thought will also be given in these committees. He said that a special package will be given to the government employees who embraced martyrdom due to the coronavirus while performing their official duties.

He said that supply of ration to the families of Coronavirus patients should be continued in the areas of lockdown and semi-lockdown. He said that the destitute segment of the society will not be left alone in this time of trial and PTI government will take care of their needs. Financial assistance will be provided to the needy and deserving people through Prime Minister's Relief Package, Binazeer Income Support Program and Bait-ul-Amal. Law Minister Raja Bashart, Finance Minister Hashim Jawan Bakht, Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal, Chief Secretary, Senior Member Revenue Board of Revenue and other concerned officials were also present on this occasion.

Ansar presents Rs 63 lakh

cheque for CM's Special Fund

Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resource Ansar Majeed called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and presented him a cheque of Rs 63 lakhs in CM's Special Fund for Corona Control. It is worth mentioning that employees of sub-office of Labour Department PESSI has donated their one day salary in CM's Special Fund for Corona Control. CM, while talking on this occasion, said that the contribution of officers and staff of PESSI for controlling corona is praiseworthy. He said that the situation that occurred due to corona will be faced mutually.

He said that the well-to-do of society should play an effective role in the government's efforts for dealing with coronavirus. The public support is utmost necessary to face the challenge like corona. Corona could be eradicated in record time if every person will play their due role. Provincial Minister Ansar Majeed Khan said that they are standing side by side with Chief Minis-

ter in his efforts for the eradication of coronavirus. The staff of PESSI, other than class-IV staff, discharge their national obligation by contributing in Chief Minister Special Funds for Corona Control. Social Security Hospitals have already offered their services for the eradication of coronavirus. Provincial Minister Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal were also present on this occasion.

Buzdar directs to accelerate research activities against virus

Buzdar has directed to accelerate the research activities for the eradication of coronavirus. In a special meeting chaired by Chief Minister Punjab it was told that four study groups have been formed and research has been started under the supervision of the University of the Health Sciences. Usman Buzdar directed the experts to make fruitful efforts to deal with coronavirus as soon as possible.

The Chief Minister was informed in the briefing that BSL-3 Lab has started working in Jinnah hospital and PKLI.

The experts briefed the meeting that Covid-19 found in Pakistan is quite different from the Coronavirus of Wuhan and Iran. The Chief Minister directed to manufacture Personal Protection Equipment i.e. Security/Safety Suit at the local level. The meeting further informed that a textile owner from Lahore has offered to manufacture PPE voluntarily and free of cost. The Chief Minister said that coronavirus should be treated in a scientific manner. The government wants a complete eradication from this menace. He said that standard SOPs for the home quarantine should evolve as soon as possible. He said that the government wants to get the ability to setup 200 beds field hospital as soon as possible. The meeting was informed that China has offered to setup a hospital in Punjab besides deputed Chinese doctors there to cope with corona. Vice-Chancellor University of Health Sciences Prof. Dr. Javed Akram, Prof. Dr. Mahmood Shaikat, Secretary Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education

# PM, CM monitoring day-to-day activities to deal with virus situation

—Augustine distributes relief goods among deserving families

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** Punjab Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs (HR&MA) Ijaz Alam Augustine, along with the Youth Development Foundation (YDF), on Saturday distributed relief goods among the minority families, who had lost their sources of livelihood due to coronavirus pandemic.

According to a handout issued here, volunteers of YDF distributed food items among almost 100 deserving families of Christian, Sikh and Hindu community, while Ijaz Alam Augustine, Secretary HR&MA Dr Shoaib and

Executive Director YDF Shahid Rehmat attended the event.

All standard operating procedures (SOPs) recommended by the Punjab government regarding coronavirus care, were ensured as precautionary measures during the distribution ceremony. People were called for items delivery at different times to avoid a large gathering, distance of 3 to 4 feet was also ensured while each person was made to wear mask and gloves after using hand sanitiser.

The minister appreciated the YDF efforts for helping the ailing humanity, and said that the YDF youth were al-

ways found ready for any welfare work without any discrimination. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan and Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar were monitoring day-to-day activities to deal with the coronavirus situation, and all provincial ministers were busy in their respective constituencies to serve the nation.

The minister said that every possible step was being taken to control coronavirus and the Punjab government was trying to facilitate the poor by maintaining supplies at utility stores. Organisations like the YDF could help reach out to the people at grassroots

level," he said. He urged people to take special care of cleanliness and most times stay at their homes. He appealed to people having resources to come forward for the help of the needy families.

YDF representative Shahid Rehmat said the initiative was aimed at helping at least 100 poor families, especially transporters and daily-wagers, who were facing a lot of difficulties as shopping malls, markets, parks, restaurants and tourist spots would remain closed till April 6.

**Punjab govt providing every possible facility to masses: Chohan**  
Punjab Information Minister Fayazal

Hassan Chohan has said that the Punjab government was providing every possible facility to the masses during the Corona Virus crisis.

In a message issued here on Saturday, he said that strict arrangements of food supply chain in the province were being ensured on the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. He said that the Punjab government had established 25 sale points in the provincial capital where flour was available all the time.

"The Buzdar government has made arrangements of isolation for more than 25 thousand patients," he said.



LAHORE: A view of Quaid-i-Azam Library at Bagh-e-Jinnah on The Mall after the rain spell water accumulated in front of building.—Online

# Financial losses to textile export industries multiplying with every coming day

By Our Staff Reporter

**LAHORE:** "Amid global economic slowdown due to corona pandemic, the financial losses to textile export industries are multiplying every coming day and exporters are facing highest liquidity crises of the history."

Small & Medium Textile Export industries have approached from all over Pakistan stating that they have run out of cash to pay wages to workers, make payment of utilities and operate industries.

The gravity of situation demands and Textile Export Industry appeals Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan to announce and provide relief to the Export Oriented Industry for the sake of their

survival with immediate directives to Ministry of Energy for onwards directives to all DISCOs, SNGPL & SSGCL for deferment of payments of utilities (Power & Gas) with immediate effect till normalization of industrial and export activity." Chaudhry Salam Ali, Central Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) appealed to the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

PHMA Central Chairman also paid tribute to Prime Minister for efforts to provide relief to the export sector in wake of Corona pandemic. The Textile exports sector contribute to more than 50 percent to the national exports and this sector is also labour-intensive which provides highest employment to human

workforce and the highest foreign exchange earner.

Textile exporters were already facing host of challenges and financial pressure amid stuck up precious liquidity in shape of Sales Tax Refunds, Custom Rebates, DLTL etc. while COVID19 abruptly had put a deadly blow on the entire export industry which has been crippled and came to standstill.

Reportedly, many textile export orders have been cancelled amid global lockdown and in various cases foreign buyers have also refused to collect shipments at the export destinations.

Hence, in view of severe liquidity crises, it is imperative that Government must defer the payments of utilities till the situation normalises.